New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

Nepiki
Community Manager
Joined Nov 22, 2020

OP 17 hours ago

We got a big one for you today, as we are now officially Hardcore supported on **Afterplay**! This is a wonderful frontend for emulators, using the Libretro cores we are all familiar with and allows you to play every system from Nintendo, Sega, as well as a few others like Neo Geo, Atari, and more! Best of all, Afterplay is available on **Windows, macOS, and Linux, Web browsers, as well as iOS and Android**, with it syncing across all devices!

Afterplay offers a beautiful UI, that allows you to easily choose from your game library and play online with friends. Hopping between games is done easily, and Softcore players have an additional benefit of having resume states made automatically. Other well-known features include but are definitely not limited to:

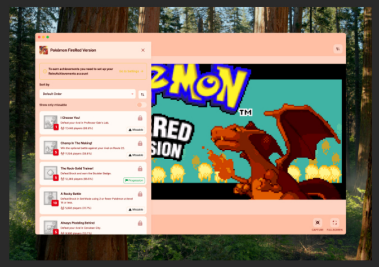
- Fast forward for any mode
- Built-in time traveling so you too can celebrate Christmas today
- Easy manager for screenshots and videos
- Shaders to play around with

And much, much more. Suffice to say, we are super excited to announce this partnership, and assuredly this frontend will keep getting even better over time, as the developer shared with me that a hash checker for your roms for RetroAchievements compatibility is also in the works!

For more information on how to get started, please check out https://afterplay.io .

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL

In addition to collaborating with RetroAchievements on emulator support, Afterplay has made a generous $400 donation to the Palestine Children's Relief Fund via the Four Job Fiesta charity campaign on behalf of the RA community. We'd like to express our gratitude for contributing to causes that the RA community supports through the Four Job Fiesta Event!



Nepiki
Community Manager
Joined Nov 22, 2020

OP 17 hours ago, *last edited 17 hours ago*

Topic is back up again for discussion. To stress some parts:

- The paid plan is purely for luxury QOL features, so you can support the developer for the work they do. Everything essential is available for free, which includes Fast Forward, RetroAchievements, and saves between devices. We worked together with the emulator developer to make sure users of RetroAchievements could experience the emulator with all regular features available. I will admit that we did not communicate this well enough, and I'll ask the emulator developer to update the docs to more accurately represent this.
- The emulator is not spyware. This is complete misinformation and should never have been spread in the first place. It does track simple user behaviour like what buttons are pressed, and this is solely done for the emulator developer to know what works, doesn't work, and what the users like using. We on RetroAchievements also do this, and pretty much every page you visit does this; this is not anything new.

We have done our due diligence in testing the emulator and making sure it's something we want to support. We don't just add support to anything without doing the research required. If all of the above is something you do not want in your emulator, great! There are a ton of other options waiting for you to be checked out, with more coming in the future. But don't go around spreading misinformation and calling it a scam, because what you are doing is inflicting damage to the relations we build with emulator developers, and may very well discourage other emulator developers into supporting RetroAchievements--emulators you very well may have enjoyed.

With that, this is the first and immediate final warning of this topic; keep discussion respectful, and if you only have something negative to contribute, then don't bother. We accept feedback and constructive discussion, but I have no interest in letting this become a negative hatethread based on false accusations. You don't have to use this emulator; nobody is forcing you to.

Wimpyfox
Joined Aug 18, 2018

17 hours ago

The emulator is shady and if you are someone who doesn't know any better I personally would simply suggest you just stick with retroarch or the other alternatives. This is not to "mald" or be hateful but just to help others who don't know any better before you spam the "Just don't use it" response you used prior.

17 hours ago

To pharaprase a guy on the subreddit:

Lokomelo
Joined Nov 17, 2016

Isn't there an issue using some cores in commercial use ?

For example snes9x libretro prohibits commercial use in their license :

https://github.com/snes9xgit/snes9x/blob/master/LICENSE

Libretro port (c) Copyright 2011 - 2017 Hans-Kristian Arntzen, Daniel De Matteis (Under no circumstances will commercial rights be given)

But even if SNES is not in the paid tier it serves to advertise their paid tiers and the snes9x license explicitly prohibits that :

Commercial use includes, but is not limited to, charging money for Snes9x or software derived from Snes9x, including Snes9x or derivatives in commercial game bundles, and/or using Snes9x as a promotion for your commercial product

There are also some cores under gpl license (v2 v3) (mesen, mupen64plus, melonds) that require you to post your source code and use your derivative work under gpl licensing and authorize users to redistribute. I see no source code of afterplay maybe I didn't search enough.

On top of that their documentation and tier pricing often mention the direct console names, they can have problems with Sony/Nintendo for that especially the branding on the paid features I think In the RetroArch website (not the blog) I see no mentions of the console's name. Maybe I'm wrong on that part. But the core licenses I'm pretty sure it's not authorized.

ChameleonGaming
Joined May 28, 2025

16 hours ago

I was initially excited to hear about this, as it would mean I could earn RetroAchievements on my school Chromebook, but then I heard the security concerns and now I'm kind of reluctant.

Mydo2000
Joined Feb 24, 2024

15 hours ago

Hmmm what security concerns ?
I wanna try and download it but now after reading this I'm starting to question things

Nepiki
Community Manager
Joined Nov 22, 2020

OP 15 hours ago

> - The emulator is not spyware. This is complete misinformation and should never have been spread in the first place. It does track simple user behaviour like what buttons are pressed, and this is solely done for the emulator developer to know what works, doesn't work, and what the users like using. We on RetroAchievements also do this, and pretty much every page you visit does this; this is not anything new.

These are the "Security concerns" mentioned.

Mydo2000
Joined Feb 24, 2024

15 hours ago

Oh ok now I get it
Thanks

zachhammer
Joined Aug 26, 2023

15 hours ago

I think people were voicing valid concerns and had honest opinions and discussion in the previous thread (which is now completely hidden) and your response was just to mute the most vocal users and erase any evidence of their complaints and try it again in the morning?

Really not a good look from the moderation team. Makes me think there's some sort of back channel marketing deal in place here or something.

Final word lest I be muted for valid negativity with my honest opinions: I don't think the app is malicious or spyware, but I was initially taken aback by the sheer online restrictiveness of it all. Why does it require a connection to Google Analytics to even boot? Why do I have to register an account to load a ROM? Why is there a donate button on every single screen? I was confused and looked further into what the app was supposed to be and found that the dev at one point (maybe still? It's hard to tell) was charging a monthly fee for access to certain cores and features. It was at this point that I decided that this wasn't the app for me, which is a shame because I was looking forward to a fully featured desktop emulator front end with a fresh clean design.

Kaiserlucas
Joined Jul 9, 2019

15 hours ago

Personally, I have also been a little iffy on the official Retroachievements endorsement on this from the start.

From what I am gathering based on the developers Discord, this is very much meant to be a commercially viable product that he is working on full time with the intention to make money now. This is well within his right, even if the temporary locking of features like fast forward make for a questionable user experience when most emulators offer these features for free. But I get it. He wants to make money off this, and the servers for e.g. Cloud saves cost money to maintain. Not a service I would personally use, but there's nothing inherently wrong with it existing.

The thing that actually left a bad taste in my mouth here is that it is specifically a commercial product based on the Libretro project, of which not all used cores allow commercial use by default. Snes9x was mentioned earlier as being problematic to include even for a free tier when the product as a whole is inherently commercial, but even going further, there is the Duckstation core which also doesn't allow commercial use and actually used to be a premium feature for a while according to the now outdated screenshots in the documentation.

All that said, it is perfectly possible that the developer of Afterplay contacted the developers of these cores to request permission for commercial usage, even if the provided license doesn't give this right by default, as the licenses specifically leave this option open. It seems shady at a glance, but I will have to give it the benefit of the doubt since I don't actually know to what lengths the developer went to make it legitimate. Though I still don't feel great about a product like this being featured on the RA front page given how revenue focused it seems to be for a Libretro based project, according to the dev's statements on Discord.

(Also Re Lokomelo: I don't actually think that making the source code to Afterplay as a whole available is legally required. From what I am understanding they would just have to release the source code of the cores again if they made alterations to it to use in their project. So assuming they didn't change anything, I believe they should be fine on the GPL License cores)

BruceLee1255
Joined Jan 27, 2019

15 hours ago

I downloaded Afterplay the other day. Haven't had any issues so far, I like it.

Nepiki
Community Manager
Joined Nov 22, 2020

OP 15 hours ago, *last edited 15 hours ago*

zachhammer to answer your genuine concerns, I will agree that this could probably have been handled better. The reason the other thread is now unavailable wasn't just because of the feedback (of which some, admittedly, is misinformed), but also because it was slowly dripping into a conversation unrelated to the emulator that could become quite heated if left uncontrolled. To prevent this, and to remove the misinformation, the best choice I was left with was to lock the thread entirely.

I think your feedback is valid and well-constructed, and rest assured that it would never lead to a mute. I will not go into the mute of the other user as this is a moderation thing, but that did not involve just what happened in this thread, as the user was active elsewhere doing the exact same even after being told to stop.

CryoProtea
Joined Mar 28, 2023

14 hours ago

I gave it a try and I get a bad feeling about the whole thing. It seems to be closed source, the android app just opens an instance in the browser (and the performance is terrible because of this), and the licensing issues with some cores are a significant concern. I hope I'm wrong and everything turns out fine, but I don't think I'll be using afterplay.

AleStuffs
Joined Feb 22, 2020

12 hours ago

NOICE

SunnyDays
Joined Jun 22, 2022

11 hours ago

Really cool that the developer made a sizeable donation to Palestine Children's Relief Fund. Glad to see more options available, especially for using libretro cores outside retroarch!

Thanks for the continued updates to making RA available to more players!

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

10 hours ago

https://boards.4chan.org/v/thread/717673362

Really?

Ephraim
Joined Jun 22, 2023

10 hours ago

> https://boards.4chan.org/v/thread/717673362
>
> Really?

LMAO

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

10 hours ago

Reminder: all of RetroAchievements is open source. You can browse all our code here: https://github.com/RetroAchievements. Our license is permissive. Do whatever you want with it. Everything is public - our emulator libraries, the developer toolkit, and the website itself.

> it's only a matter of time until they lock up the API

I'm not sure where this is coming from; some of our users have very vivid imaginations. We're in the process of cleaning up and expanding our API: https://github.com/RetroAchievements/RAWeb/pull/3758

Ephraim
Joined Jun 22, 2023

10 hours ago

> The Earthbound set is actually very shit, it's mostly just "find every treasure", "equip *rare item*" stuff. The laziest type of set.

ppl are even giving feedback about sets in that thread hahaha

> >kids so desperate for good boy points they add cheevos to old games
>
> Zoomers need pop up trophies for every game or they won't play it

LMAO

2553081h
Joined Apr 5, 2025

10 hours ago

I found the app to have a very good interface and is well designed. I had no problems with it, I even thought about using it permanently, but... it doesn't have a PSP and I also have the same performance as the Nintendo DS emulation on Retroarch, so Retroarch is still my option at the moment, but the app is quite interesting and beautiful.

BruceLee1255
Joined Jan 27, 2019

10 hours ago

> kids so desperate for good boy points they add cheevos to old games
>
> Zoomers need pop up trophies for every game or they won't play it

Wow, I'm a Zoomer! That's exciting to know that I've DEAGED BY LIKE TWENTY YEARS!

The phrase I always say comes to mind: "People are very silly."

GregHouse007
Joined Apr 19, 2019

9 hours ago

Some of you are being very destructive towards the site over this issue. What's the deal with making a thread in 4chan slandering the site and spreading misinformation?

If you don't like the new emulator because it has features locked behind a paywall, then use another emulator. There's many to choose from in the download section.

I understand voicing concerns about it here in this thread, but why would you attack this site because of the way that emulator is handled? What would you gain by tarnishing the reputation of this site through lies?

9 hours ago

> >kids so desperate for good boy points they add cheevos to old games

CertifiedMaxus
Joined Jul 20, 2024

> Zoomers need pop up trophies for every game or they won't play it

Guys look! I'm clowning on people for using an achievements service! I'm so cool right?

Retroexophase
Joined Apr 11, 2025

9 hours ago, *last edited 8 hours ago*

.

CertifiedMaxus
Joined Jul 20, 2024

9 hours ago

oh yeah, speaking of afterplay, I downloaded it on my mobile but it wasn't THAT good, the controls are uncomfortable and if you try to add any buttons or change the joystick, basically nothing happens, it could just be me but I still don't like it, it has some potential though

CertifiedMaxus
Joined Jul 20, 2024

9 hours ago

Retroexophase not like they're gonna see these messages anyways... oh wait-

Aamer91
Joined Jul 1, 2022

9 hours ago

I honestly downloaded it just to have it on iOS. They may take it down soon so i dont wanna miss out in case I change my mind on playing when time comes.

popsky
Joined Sep 19, 2022

8 hours ago

i got problems with rich presence, the same on skyemu both new supported emulators... (reported)

https://discord.com/channels/310192285306454017/453242743292952578/1403538792736100385

N0tj0sh33
Joined Apr 4, 2025

8 hours ago

I've been hoping that BigPEmu adds support for achievements but I'm sure seeing the crash out some users are having here might make adding support look unappealing...

Kingsombra
Joined Feb 23, 2021

7 hours ago, *last edited 7 hours ago*

I stick with Retroarch and i leave it at that. Thank you.

Also, don't mind the 4chan shitposters. They just wanna get a rise out of you like they have always done for 20 years.

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

7 hours ago

> - The paid plan is purely for luxury QOL features, so you can support the developer for the work they do.

a paid plan for features that already exist for free in the software theyre repackaging is a scam, the fact its doing this while clearly violating the licenses for the emulators it uses is scum behavior and likely illegal. no idea why you guys would provide support or cover for something like this at all

also looking at the updates one of them is "achievements are now free!" so were they at one point charging money for access to the sets people have made on here?? lol

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

6 hours ago

also looking at their privacy policy on data collection and storage, theyve forgotten to actually fill out what country they store your information in in the template site theyve used

7. IS YOUR INFORMATION TRANSFERRED INTERNATIONALLY?

In Short: *We may transfer, store, and process your information in countries other than your own.*

Our servers are located in. If you are accessing our Services from outside, please be aware that your information may be transferred to, stored, and processed by us in our facilities and by those third parties with whom we may share your personal information (see "WHEN AND WITH WHOM DO WE SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION?" above), in and other countries.

If you are a resident in the European Economic Area (EEA), United Kingdom (UK), or Switzerland, then these countries may not necessarily have data protection laws or other similar laws as comprehensive as those in your country. However, we will take all necessary measures to protect your personal information in accordance with this privacy notice and applicable law.

so i dont really believe any of this was actually vetted or looked at until it was posted and people pointed out the problems with it.

oBS0LEte
Joined Apr 21, 2025

6 hours ago

Yeah I think luxury QOL features is a bit of an oxymoron really.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

6 hours ago Edit

"luxury QOL features"
You mean features that are free in other emulators? "You don't have to use it". The fact that this website is endorsing this is not a good look.

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

6 hours ago

Listing stuff on our downloads page and saying it's supported isn't an endorsement. "Supported" is ambiguous, but in this instance it just means the server won't get angry on an attempted hardcore unlock from the emulator. To the best of my knowledge, we don't endorse any of our supported emulators, otherwise it'd look like we were playing favorites. That's why the downloads page only sorts by popularity or alphabetical order.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

6 hours ago Edit

It's on the front page of this site and then has made a $400 donation on this site's behalf. Maybe "endorsing" wasn't the right word, but this site "supporting" such a thing or advertising this emulator doesn't sit right with me.

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

5 hours ago

> It's on the front page of this site and then has made a $400 donation on this site's behalf. Maybe "endorsing" wasn't the right word, but this site "supporting" such a thing or advertising this emulator doesn't sit right with me.

If I'm not mistaken, that seems consistent with what we always do: a news post is made for every emulator that receives hardcore verification. We also can't tell people what to do with their money.

We don't support any emulator's business practices. That's well beyond the scope of RA. When it comes to emulator support, our motivation is to give people as many different ways to play ("supported emulators") as possible so people can decide what way is right for them. On the downloads page,

when sorting by popularity, you can see where people are choosing to spend their time. The popularity metrics are automatically generated once per week based on traffic the server receives.

firkinblin
Joined Feb 26, 2023

5 hours ago

Lmao at 4chan actually thinking that this makes the site p2w. Just some losers who have no idea how any of this works (or anything else in life), as usual. All the people I've known from there irl were scummy individuals and bad at video games or at least overhyping their interest in them, which makes it all the funnier that they're the ones proudly spreading fake information. (Sorry for being rude, mods! At least I'm defending RA with it, along with the objective truth.)

As for the emulator itself, I'm indifferent. If the free portion is sleeker than the alternatives and offers the same features, then there's no reason to avoid using it. If I have to pay for cores or for features like Pokemon trading, then why the hell would I use it? Definitely will never pay for subscription models, though, because 1) it's a horrible practice and part of what makes Nintendo suck these days and 2) because I live in Russia and literally can't lol.

As for the spyware argument, yo, like literally everything is packed with cookies and trackers these days, which is nothing new. Usually it's just for targeted advertisement (essentially extra income for the dev), and this side of it is generally harmless in my opinion. But at the same time, if you want to get conspiratorial, pretty evil companies like Google could absolutely decide to be a beach at any time and rat you out to big bro for downloading the new Zelda game before release, so yeah, I totally get not wanting them involved at all.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

That's the issue. You shouldn't be advertising this emulator at all. You're advertising a scam. "If you don't want to deal with retroarch you can use our emulator and have the option to pay to use cores and features that are free to use in other emulators." That's the problem. Yeah you can't tell people what to do with their money but it sets a bad precedent. You may not be supporting with money, but you're advertising an emulator that is scamming users.

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

5 hours ago

> That's the issue. You shouldn't be advertising this emulator at all. You're advertising a scam.

I briefly tested Afterplay a week or so ago. I loaded up an NES game, logged in to RetroAchievements, and unlocked some stuff in hardcore mode. I didn't pay anything, and all the features I wanted to use worked as expected. I wouldn't want to dispute your personal experience, but I didn't feel scammed during this interaction, although it's certainly possible I overlooked something during my session.

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

5 hours ago

i dont see why something which is openly and flagrantly violating multiple emulator licenses should be given any support at all, if anything it should be blocked. there are multiple cores on there that have licenses which explicitly disallow their use in commercial products that have had parts of their core functionality paywalled. even if those cores were completely free they still would be in violation by being included at all.

firkinblin
Joined Feb 26, 2023

5 hours ago

I'll get philosophical for a bit. A lot of what we deem as "profit-centered" or "business" is actually just scamming people. If you've decided that something is a scam, then it means that you see through the model as something that is taking more from you than what it gives in return. In the case of an emulator, this means that you're probably quite tech savvy and well-versed in emulation knowledge to not need such a service.

For some people who are idiots with tech or just don't want to invest their time into gathering the knowledge for it, this emulator might be the one thing that actually makes them participate in RetroAchievements or even begin their journey into emulation. In that case, the person will not see it as a scam at all, and essentially it isn't since they do indeed get more from it than what they're giving. The biggest benefit is that this person will eventually delve deeper, learn all the knowledge that you know now, and ween themselves off the "scam" in the end. So it's not all doom and gloom, thankfully.

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

5 hours ago

> there are multiple cores on there that have licenses which explicitly disallow their use in commercial products that have had parts of their core functionality paywalled.

As an open source developer, this is something I would take issue with. I'll look into this now and bubble it up with their developer. Thanks for the heads up.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

That's fine if you don't feel scammed, but for the average person whose been told that they should avoid retroarch and use this instead because of it's simplicity then gets trick into paying a monthly or yearly subscription for features they might want to use that happen to be free on every other emulator.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

@firkinblin
You are way to optimistic with the average consumer learning anything. Also if this emulator becomes popular then it sets a bad precedent with other emulators charging for features that used to be free

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

5 hours ago

> but for the average person whose been told that they should avoid retroarch and use this instead because of it's simplicity

Is there anywhere on our website or docs we're steering the average user to avoid RetroArch? If there is, I'd be happy to change that. As far as I know, RetroArch is consistently the first emulator listed on the downloads page.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

@WCopeland
Thank you. You are the first person to actually look into the legality of the use of certain cores despite it being brought up multiple on different sites. I find it strange that some people who work on this site hadn't made any comments despite it being brought up multiple times like on Reddit or the first page of this thread and probably the first thread.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

No there isn't. But the Retroarch is known to be very confusing for a first timer and they be led to use this instead which also uses cores like Retroarch but has a more simpler UI

firkinblin
Joined Feb 26, 2023

5 hours ago

Lol, maybe a bit, CakeBananaCake. The average consumer is definitely a hair away from stupidity in my view. And I totally agree that it sets a bad precedent for future developers. I'm still optimistic about emulation as a whole, though. Emulators are, without a doubt, much more open-source and "free" than they were 20 years ago. So many early emulators are dead now because their devs suffered from their own hubris and refused to share the source code. Nowadays, it's very popular to work as teams on these things and only accept donations, including here on RA. That's pretty selfless and obviously driven by principle.

I guess the biggest negative is that you'll inevitably get an influx of more normies here who will be too inept to even beat a game on normal difficulty and claim that they're being discriminated against by achievements being too hard, essentially a "watering down". The only thing I can say about that is " admins and devs, stand your ground and don't let them make the site worse when they come".

255308Ih
Joined Apr 5, 2025

5 hours ago

In my opinion... any way to improve the site's experience, or expand this wonderful experience of playing games we might not have a reason to spend our time on, is a good thing. The site gives you a new objective inside a game, which you might then see and understand in a new way. I could be playing a generic multiplayer game or one that shows ad after ad, but here I am having fun getting 100% in an extremely fun game.

As I see it, there are many other emulators with RetroAchievements support, and Afterplay is the only one I know of that offers services that don't involve the achievements created here by all the incredible people who put their time and energy into this. That is extremely sacred and should be respected, so I don't see a problem with charging for something that is optional.

For example, I installed the app and used it normally. I found the translation and the visual design interesting, but I still prefer RetroArch, even though its look is inferior. And life goes on, I'm not going to cry about it on the internet. But for some crazy reason, there's always someone who wants things to be "underground."

To summarize, this app is more for people who are interested in a nice, colorful look with customizations, and lighter emulation without PS2 or PSP. It's for people who are willing to pay for services and want to support the project, and especially, most importantly, want free achievements. If that's not you, I recommend you keep using the same emulator. It's simple and easy, with no arguments or tantrums.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

Nice AI response.

TheoVellum
Joined Jul 23, 2016

5 hours ago

Just because a person has a better vocabulary does not mean they are using AI to respond, ya know.

Ephraim

5 hours ago

Being a Blade Runner will be a piece of cake

Joined Jun 22, 2023

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

No it doesn't, but to use "To summarize" in your paragraph like your writing an essay is suspicious. He may have not used AI for all of it, but he definitely used it.

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

5 hours ago

> Thank you. You are the first person to actually look into the legality of the use of certain cores despite it being brought up multiple on different sites. I find it strange that some people who work on this site hadn't made any comments despite it being brought up multiple times like on Reddit or the first page of this thread and probably the first thread.

Sure, no problem 👍

Lately I've tried as best as I can not to be involved with emulator support - it kinda stresses me out. I've identified 3 cores in Afterplay that have a possible licensing issue and have raised them directly with the developer in our private staff channel with them.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

5 hours ago Edit

I appreciate it

CryoProtea
Joined Mar 28, 2023

4 hours ago

> I've been hoping that BigPEmu adds support for achievements but I'm sure seeing the crash out some users are having here might make adding support look unappealing...

I think the issue is, the more info comes out about afterplay, the shadier they seem, and people don't like it and are speaking up about it.

> For some people who are idiots with tech or just don't want to invest their time into gathering the knowledge for it, this emulator might be the one thing that actually makes them participate in RetroAchievements or even begin their journey into emulation. In that case, the person will not see it as a scam at all, and essentially it isn't since they do indeed get more from it than what they're giving. The biggest benefit is that this person will eventually delve deeper, learn all the knowledge that you know now, and ween themselves off the "scam" in the end. So it's not all doom and gloom, thankfully.

We objectively know that this is not what happens the vast majority of the time.

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

4 hours ago

> As I see it, there are many other emulators with RetroAchievements support, and Afterplay is the only one I know of that offers services that don't involve the achievements created here by all the incredible people who put their time and energy into this.

its offering services that exist already within the emulators for a fee. if the pricing was only for the things it provides outside of them, such as the save file and rom file syncing, that would be one thing. but its clearly packaged parts of the emulators into the paid tier and is acting like its something only it offers.

its also now extremely unclear what is free or paid, the only piece of information is what was posted in the previous thread, which we've been told is now incorrect. im actually struggling to see anywhere where it lays out exactly what you are paying for in that case, the payment page only appears to mention "unlimited saves" and "cheats" now. the only thing on the entire site with any details is the "outdated" image in their docs page. this is extraordinarily shady behavior and i again fail to see why a service which operates like this should be tolerated at all.

Freedfox
Joined Jan 14, 2024

4 hours ago, *last edited 4 hours ago*

I posted on reddit but I'll post it again here.

I don't think the stuff they are doing is "legal"

They are using cores that have licenses that explicitly prohibits commercial usage or promoting commercial stuff (ie packaging the core in a free version to advertise your paid version)

Snes9x:
https://github.com/snes9xgit/snes9x/blob/master/LICENSE

> Libretro port
> (c) Copyright 2011 - 2017 Hans-Kristian Arntzen,
> Daniel De Matteis
> (**Under no circumstances will commercial rights be given**)

> Commercial use includes,
> but is not limited to, charging money for Snes9x or software derived from
> Snes9x, **including Snes9x or derivatives in commercial game bundles**, and/or
> **using Snes9x as a promotion for your commercial product**.

Same for duckstation that uses a Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 license :
https://github.com/stenzek/duckstation?tab=License-1-ov-file#readme

> a. reproduce and Share the Licensed Material, in whole or
> in part, for NonCommercial purposes only; and

> b. produce and reproduce, but not Share, Adapted Material
> for NonCommercial purposes only.

And there is also multiple cores with GPL licenses that require you to provide the source code to the users and license the derivative work under gpl : Mesen, Mupen64plus, MelonDS
i didn't see any source code/github repo or the license used by this software.

Seems like it profits from free software without giving back.

I'm all for alternatives but this is not it imo. I will not be using this and encourage other to not use it either.

Tremmy
Joined Nov 5, 2023

4 hours ago

As a Chromebook user it's nice to have an emulator that supports systems that I didn't previously have any access to. RetroArch is an impossible mess on Chromebook so I appreciate this very much. Anyone worried about security concerns and such are out of their minds. We have a pretty open-faced pedophile for president, folks. I doubt the feds gives a shit about your 30 year old video games.

Don't ask for links to copyrighted ROMs. Don't share links to copyrighted ROMs.

0 / 60,000

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

4 hours ago Edit

Bringing in politics that has nothing to do with the topic at hand isn't helping. Just because it's useful for you doesn't make it any less of a scam. Also it's unlawful use of other people's cores is also concerning.

wes
Engineer
Joined Feb 2, 2020

4 hours ago

DuckStation is mentioned in their docs but as best as I can tell the emulator doesn't seem to be shipping DuckStation.

I bubbled up Snes9x as well as Genesis Plus GX, which has similar copy in their license.

255308Ih
Joined Apr 5, 2025

4 hours ago

@CakeBananaCake

I can't use the word summarize, I'm Brazilian and it's very common to use it when you don't really feel like discussing, something like "that's my opinion"

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

4 hours ago Edit

@255308Ih
Fair enough. I will leave it at that then

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

4 hours ago

> Lmao at 4chan actually thinking that this makes the site p2w. Just some losers who have no idea how any of this works (or anything else in life), as usual. All the people I've known from there irl were scummy individuals and bad at video games or at least overhyping their interest in them, which makes it all the funnier that they're the ones proudly spreading fake information. (Sorry for being rude, mods! At least I'm defending RA with it, along with the objective truth.)

Pretty sure it was just a few disgruntled RA users posting there and trying to stir shit up on both sites. Most of the RA threads I've seen on /v/ have went something like this:
- OP asks if anyone uses RA and if so, their thoughts on it.
- Posts by people who don't give a shit and don't get why people enjoy fake internet points. To each their own.
- Complaints about tryhard autistic devs and their tryhard autistic sets.
- One person saying they like this or that set
- Obligatory "OP is a *slur-of-the-day*" post(s)
- Thread is on the last page by the end of the day and a similar thread pops up again a month or so later.
- Rinse and repeat.

The post today was probably just a handful of people who were in this thread and the thread that got axed. /v/ doesn't give a shit.

Wondering how things will go the day the Clover set goes live, though...

255308Ih
Joined Apr 5, 2025

4 hours ago

@CakeBananaCake

I also wanted to make my vision very clear on this, so I wrote it as formally as possible. It's okay, you don't need to worry about it, there's no way you wouldn't know I'm from Brazil ^^"

imhkr
Joined Jan 12, 2017

4 hours ago

remember back in the day when we constantly had to tell people that any paid emulator is a scam?

tele
Hash Manager

4 hours ago

Like that PCE/TG16 emulator that I forgot the name of.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

4 hours ago, *last edited 4 hours ago*

No, people are not "normies" for having different opinions on set design or difficulty. Nor does admin need to "stand ground" against.... people with different opinions. This site is for fun. Nothing here is actually important to the real world. Let people enjoy the site without being on this elitist horse against "normies".

And no, an emulator people voluntarily choose to use or not use is not a "scam". People voluntarily using a product you may not like is not a "scam". Words have actual meaning, and the word "scam" here has lost any it may have had. Emulator devs can privately decide how they construct their own program; if you dislike it, you can choose to simply use another emulator instead. You guys here do nothing but beg, beg, beg, beg for the free services of others, whether it be the developers here, the devs of any emulator, let alone this one, or simple site maintentence, and when you don't get what you want, you beg for more. This is nothing but a choice of emulator - we have dozens of others, and God knows many others we support have some amount of criticism about it - and yet choice disagreements are being expanded into absurd insinuations of criminal behavior and misuse of the term "scam". Like or dislike the emulator, implying criminal conduct on fickle claims at best and throwing around serious terms with actual meaning like nothing is just disgusting. There has been some legitimate discussion, but most of it is just drudging up politics, name-calling, and seriously misunderstanding tech terms.

Also, no, paid emulation is not a scam. Love it or hate it, emulator devs do not work for you - they are free to choose how to manage their emulator, to give their labor for free or to charge for it. If a person makes a choice to spend their money on an emulator, that is their choice that they are free to make - that is not a "scam" by definition. I know that this site has a culture of begging for devs to do literally everything and anything you ask them to on their own free time, but come on here. I frankly have no interest in this emulator, but "scam" is an actual word with an actual meaning. Not "product I don't like".

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

3 hours ago

Edit

Paid emulation is a scam. Hiding basic features that are free in other emulators is a scam. People who could “voluntarily” use this emulator without any knowledge and think paying for said features is normal and think that’s just how it is sets a bad precedent for future or current emulation. You have “no interest” in this emulator but you decided to write three paragraphs how much “you don’t care”. I don’t care if this doesn’t affect you, but it affects these so called “normies” who don’t know any better. Look at the big picture

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

3 hours ago

the devs of the emulators which explicitly disallow commercial use are the only ones who are having their free work disrespected, and charging money for functions included in the emulators for free is a scam, as is the way the entire site/application is setup where it refuses to explain what is paid and free, automatically enrolls all accounts and guests into a free trial to make it even more unclear what part of the service requires payment and is a clear attempt at lock-in by hoping that people will use the paid features unwittingly, and then fork over money when the trial they had no idea about comes to an end and they are suddenly restricted from accessing their saves or whatever else it removes access to. which is also unclear.
the original pricing lists a single save slot for free users, and one of the few things the payment page says is a paid feature still is unlimited saves. its a blatant attempt to hook people in, any legitimate platform would be transparent about what you need to pay for, would provide a free account as default with an opt in trial so you can properly evaluate the service and what is offered for free users and by paying. there is no other way to describe what is going on here.

if all it offered was a paid tier for the save and rom file syncing and other actual functionality it provides on top of the emulators, and if that was all laid out correctly and clearly, absolutely no one would have an issue with any of it. and also no one is implying anything, it is objectively in violation of multiple licensing agreements. this isnt a line being skirted, they are openly and unquestionably breaking the terms of multiple of the included emulators. i dont particularly care about the legality, but abusing the free work of developers who have explicitly disallowed the use of their work in this manner is against the spirit of free and open source software. you do not break the licenses, even if the chance of anyone actually taking action is near zero.

also this isnt an emulator dev, all of the cores they use are external. theyve made a frontend. and yes emulator devs are free to choose how to manage their emulator, including disallowing others from profitting from them. thats the point. you dont seem to even understand what the complaint is, let alone have a coherent argument against it.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

3 hours ago

Features are not being hidden, and this emulator is very clear as to what is and is not offered in the free versions. Different emulators have different features at different levels, you can choose as you please.

Grown adults are making their own decisions as to what emulators they use. We support plenty. There is not lack of knowledge here, people can make their own decisions as to what to use or not. No one is being hoodwinked here. No poor precedent is being set - other emulators, too can choose how they implement features if at all. There are a shit ton of emulators out there, most of which are developed separately of each other. Emulator developers are free to make their own choices as to the quality of the emulator, and users can choose to or to not use them. People are not bad and stupid because they choose to use x emulator over the other, nor are they being deceived.

I wrote three paragraphs because this silly site is crashing out over us supporting yet another emulator. No, this is not "scamming" anyone. No, this is not destroying emulation. The "normies" you claim can *make their own decisions* and do know "better" - people are no obligated to have the same opinion as you. The big picture is that this doesn't matter. It doesn't. This is not a scam, we are not endorsing one, and emulation is not falling because you can use or not use an emulator you dislike. Paid emulation ain't a scam either, it is a choice of your own money you can choose to make.

imhkr
Joined Jan 12, 2017

3 hours ago

If the frontend dev spent a lot of time and energy working on frontend things and charged for those it might be worth the asking price; I've paid for a launchbox license for instance because it's set of features works well with my organization requirements. These devs however decided to lock features you'd get for free if you just downloaded retroarch behind a paywall. That's a scam in my book, charging for something you can get for free elsewhere.

Lokomelo
Joined Nov 17, 2016

3 hours ago, *last edited 3 hours ago*

@stux I want to kiss you, you managed to summarize what i couldn't without being really rude.

@doomhiker Actually, we don't have any idea what's locked behind payment, as everyone get 7 days free trial and the docs are outdated.

Ephraim
Joined Jun 22, 2023

3 hours ago

> I wrote three paragraphs because this silly site is crashing out over us supporting yet another emulator.

Big if true.

> 4,417 users are currently online.

> All-time High: 5,381 (Jul 27, 2025)

Nope, no new record.

Don't ask for links to copyrighted ROMs. Don't share links to copyrighted ROMs.

0 / 60,000

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

3 hours ago Edit

@doomhiker
You are an enabler. I love how you are avoiding the point about the illegal use of cores as well. You are arguing in bad faith and when people go against what you say you go cry to discord about how people are being stupid. Act like a "Grown adult"

LKPopezera
Joined Aug 30, 2018

3 hours ago

@doomhiker

> Features are not being hidden, and this emulator is very clear as to what is and is not offered in the free versions.

The Community Manager Nepiki said that the old pricing list for perks of AfterPlay is dated and is not true anymore, but the new one isn't anywhere on their site and it is a lot questionable everything that you will receive for free and what you'll have to pay for after the 7 days trial.
So either both you or Nepiki is lying about it, and i choose to believe Nepiki wouldn't lie to us.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

3 hours ago, *last edited 3 hours ago*

I did not see that comment when I wrote prior. Furthermore, I did not "cry" about anyone being stupid on discord, I commented about the derailing nature of the thread.

I am not enabling anything, and I don't appreciate the accusation thereof. I've refuting my personal disagreements here, not endorse criminal behaviour.

In regards to illegal cores, I doubt the emulator would have been approved if it actually violated any licences. The emulator does not, as far as I am aware, charge for using any core. It charges for features related to the emulator frontend, not the separately developed cores. Regardless of your opinion on the commercial frontend sale, I don't believe it violates the usage terms of the emulator cores it supports, let alone engages in criminal behaviour. Staff at RA are not fools - many of which professionally work in tech backgrounds. If this emulator engaged in criminal behaviour, they would've caught it long before integrated support. Of course, I was simply objecting to the claim of us supporting a "scam" - the legality of the emulator is a seperate manner and I'm not qualify to speak on it.

Anywho, I'm not "crying", and I can't say I care for you act when people refit you - you also claimed the other guy was using ai when talking to you, all because his English was poor.

As for the other guy, I admit that the on page communication could be improved. I should've said it's fairly clear what features are offered for free, and what comes later. Nepiki is indeed correct

SLN9001
Joined Nov 9, 2020

3 hours ago

Promoting software that violates multiple open-source licenses?
Deleting negative comments about said software?
Meanwhile, nobody can clearly state what features are and aren't behind a paywall.
I wonder if money was exchanged.

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

3 hours ago

> Features are not being hidden, and this emulator is very clear as to what is and is not offered in the free versions. Different emulators have different features at different levels, you can choose as you please.
>
> Grown adults are making their own decisions as to what emulators they use. We support plenty. There is not lack of knowledge here, people can make their own decisions as to what to use or not. No one is being hoodwinked here. No poor precedent is being set - other emulators, too can choose how they implement features if at all. There are a shit ton of emulators out there, most of which are developed separately of each other. Emulator developers are free to make their own choices as to the quality of the emulator, and users can choose to or to not use them. People are not bad and stupid because they choose to use x emulator over the other, nor are they being deceived.
>
> I wrote three paragraphs because this silly site is crashing out over us supporting yet another emulator. No, this is not "scamming" anyone. No, this is not destroying emulation. The "normies" you claim can make their own decisions and do know "better" - people are no obligated to have the same opinion as you. The big picture is that this doesn't matter. It doesn't. This is not a scam, we are not endorsing one, and emulation is not falling because you can use or not use an emulator you dislike. Paid emulation ain't a scam either, it is a choice of your own money you can choose to make.

can you provide me a link to where it shows exactly what is free and what is paid? bear in mind the image from 1 year ago in the official documentation has been deemed out of date. so anywhere else where it explicitly tells you? and if it does exist, why is it not on the payment page? ive even made an account to check and i cannot find anywhere where the paid and free features are laid out, other than the image we've been told is not correct anymore.

the issue is the actual emulator developers choose the licensing format for their emulator, and multiple of the included emulators in this new front end explicitly disallow their use in commercial projects, as well as some others seemingly not having other parts of their agreements fulfilled correctly. if we both agree that emulator developers are allowed to choose how they are used, then why would you be in favor of a front end which disregards the explicit requirements in the licensing agreements they have chosen?

> I did not see that comment when I wrote prior. Furthermore, I did not "cry" about anyone being stupid on discord, I commented about the derailing nature of the thread.

> I am not enabling anything, and I don't appreciate the accusation thereof. I've refuting my personal disagreements here, not endorse criminal behaviour.
>
> In regards to illegal cores, I doubt the emulator would have been approved if it actually violated any licences. The emulator does not, as far as I am aware, charge for using any core. It charges for features related to the emulator frontend, not the separately developed cores. Regardless of your opinion on the commercial frontend sale, I don't believe it violates the usage terms of the emulator cores it supports, let alone engages in criminal behaviour. Staff at RA are not fools - many of which professionally work in tech backgrounds. If this emulator engaged in criminal behaviour, they would've caught it long before integrated support. Of course, I was simply objecting to the claim of us supporting a "scam" - the legality of the emulator is a seperate manner and I'm not qualify to speak on it.
>
> As for the other guy, I admit that the on page communication could be improved. I should've said it's fairly clear what features are offered for free, and what comes later. Nepiki is indeed correct

firstly it isnt relevant if it charges for features in the emulators, the agreements can disallow their use entirely within commercial products, which is the case for at least genesis plus gx which is the included core for 5 seperate systems. secondly, one of the few things the site is clear about being paid is cheats, which are features provided within those emulators normally.

it doesnt matter if someone is a fool or not, everyone can overlook things or make mistakes, even the most competent people err. and it appears that in this case none of this was caught beforehand. this is why its important that when people raise an issue that it is taken seriously and considered properly, not handwaved or disregarded as pointless complaining. knee jerk reactions do little to help any situation.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

3 hours ago Edit

"In regards to illegal cores, I doubt the emulator would have been approved if it actually violated any licences."
Well it looks like it was. No matter how much you don't "believe".
You went to Discord to air out your frustrations because no one in this thread was agreeing with you.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

2 hours ago

https://docs.afterplay.io/subscription-management/purchasing-a-subscription

Is the current detail. I agree it could be updated.

Back to the cores, I cannot state precisely how any individual core licenses it usage. It doesn't seem to obviously violate any terms - but actual members of staff will likely detail if it does. Again, I doubt the site would've accepted support for the emulator if it illegally used any cores - the site consistently maintains its legality of its service.

Mind, I have no issue with you in particular, nor am I waving you off as pointless complaining. Claims that the emulator is "spyware", bribing RA, someone damaging over emulators, or forcing people to use it were dubious to overtly misinformed. Some concerns, mostly of core legality, are made in good faith and have fair grounds, whilst on the other side of the spectrum, claims of bribery are defamatory lies. Your concerns are fair issues, and I'll just let actual staff respond to them.

Cake, a definitive conclusion has not been reached. I did not air out any frustrations on the discord, of which you came to claim I was "crying". People on the thread disagree, and that's fine, but may you please cease the personal attacks.

imhkr
Joined Jan 12, 2017

2 hours ago

you must be real fun at parties

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

2 hours ago Edit

I have not made any personal attacks. I'm criticizing your bad faith arguments that you have made.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

2 hours ago

You've repeatedly claimed that I was "crying", and called me an "enabler". In the same thread you claimed a guy ai generated his comment because he used words too big!

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

2 hours ago Edit

I'm not the one who went to Discord to complain about the very people in this thread. I would call that crying. You are indeed enabling bad practices in the emulation community by trying to defending them. Lastly, English isn't his first language he said he was from Brazil, so to me his wording look AI generated.

LKPopezera
Joined Aug 30, 2018

2 hours ago

People talked about the free and paid features not being explicitly, clearly listed, easy to find thus making this front-end questionable, and the issue with using licenses in a commercial way, but there's also a third problem that is the image of RetroAchievements with all of this.

This whole projects depends a lot on third party emulators like Retroarch, PCSX2, Duckstation, MelonDS, Bizhawk and a lot of others emulators, and it is possible the developers/owners of those emulators getting angry with Afterplay creator/developers for using their work to earn money in a

questionable way and not only take some action against them, but against RetroAchievements itself removing the support of this site on those said emulators.

You could say they didn't do anything until now but the notice post looks a lot like an AD for a paid product with a free limited version of it, which i'm not saying it is wrong to do but the developers from the emulators can think "Hey, RA is supporting something earning money using my own work. I want to have nothing with this project anymore, my emulator won't support achievements now!". It's likely to happen? I don't think so, but it is a risk that exists and it would be quite harmful to everyone on this place for it to happen all because of a really questionable decision to support something that don't say exactly what you'll receive for paying a money to it (and again, there's also the licenses issue).

I don't know what you guys and Afterplay creator or group of creators will do with the question of licenses issues and commercial use of something that doesn't allow you do it, but could not the moderation here ask the creator/creators to give us a full and clear list of all the perks you have paying, what is limited if you don't pay after the 7 days free trial, if you can use your saves after the free trial ends and also something stux posted some hours ago where they don't say the country where all your data is stored? Not that it means something, but it's quite amateurish to have a TOC with errors like this one when it is a paid product.

BadMrFrostii
Joined Jun 27, 2017

2 hours ago

I got a slight giggle over seeing you all wait a handful of hours, and float a brand new post out there again lol.

firkinblin
Joined Feb 26, 2023

2 hours ago

LKPopezera sums it up well. The biggest risk in all of this is the loss of integrity for the site. When emulator developers see that their work is being ripped off for profit and then one of their partners (RA) is now officially supporting the one ripping others off, there is indeed a risk of the original dev just saying "nah, I'm pulling the plug", especially if their work is protected under licensing. We can argue all day about it, but these are objective realities that don't care about your emotions or how many paragraphs you write about it. In the end, everyone can lose because of a literal scam emulator that may sneak itself in.

But don't misunderstand me, all of that depends on the clear fact of profiting from the cores themselves, which obviously is something that would take a deeper analysis by admins. I also don't possess technical knowledge of any of that. They said they're looking into it already and will discuss it with the developer, so that's a wonderful piece of news since it discourages this behavior on the whole.

Oh, and the jab about "elitist mentality" on RA.. Well, get over it. You're inevitably going to have plenty of that in a place that values high scores and leaderboards. I expect elitism on a place like RA, as should everyone, but at the same time, I constantly see plenty of people kindly helping each other to achieve the same goals -- a real sense of community. If I didn't want to see any of that, I'd go somewhere else and play my games all alone in a bubble. But that's a topic for another day.

255308Ih
Joined Apr 5, 2025

2 hours ago

@CakeBananaCake

Dude... I didn't use IA

First, I agree with the incorrect use of the word "scam." Perhaps "misunderstanding" or "communication failure" is the correct term in this case.

Second, I agree that charging for services that are distributed for free is extremely wrong, as with emulators and achievements.

and calm down man, maybe no one will use Afterplay, if it's paid, and in the end it will disappear like the others

Page 6 of 9

Don't ask for links to copyrighted ROMs. Don't share links to copyrighted ROMs.

0 / 60,000

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

TheJuice
Joined Dec 17, 2020

2 hours ago

.

GetDunked
Joined Jul 6, 2019

2 hours ago

I'll let the legal experts hash out potential license violations, but I wanted to point out that even though it may be legal for the afterplay.io dev to resell software with a permissive license, it doesn't necessarily make it ethical to do so. Scalping, for example, is widely reviled as an unethical business practice despite being perfectly legal in most scenarios. Similarly, it leaves a bad taste in my mouth to resell the hard work of emulator devs and entire communities of contributors for one's sole profit, even if the licenses implicitly permit it. And even if there's plenty of other great FOSS emulators supported by RA (some even with paid versions, like PPSSPP) and supporting this one isn't necessarily an endorsement, the Afterplay dev is advertising compatibility with RA as a feature to ultimately advertise and sell this product.

Separately, the donation to charity in the name of RA feels like such a hollow gesture considering that this is ultimately being used to promote a commercial product. Just my opinion, but I'd much rather see, as a show of good faith towards the retro gaming and free software communities as a whole, the open-sourcing of the WASM versions of the emulators used. That way, the dev could mutually support the projects whose work is being resold, while also still being able to charge for the aspects that are more original to the site, such as the library management and cloud storage.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

Fine. Okay. You didn't use AI. That's not what's important and I already said that's where I would leave it. Let it go.

"Perhaps "misunderstanding" or "communication failure" is the correct term in this case. No it isn't. That's exactly what it is.

I will not "calm down". This should not be supported in any way, I don't trust the common person, especially ones that are not tech-savvy to just let it disappear.

You say, "I agree that charging for services that are distributed for free is extremely wrong, as with emulators and achievements." But claim it isn't a scam?

stux
Joined Jan 8, 2024

1 hour ago

> https://docs.afterplay.io/subscription-management/purchasing-a-subscription
>
> Is the current detail. I agree it could be updated.
>
> Back to the cores, I cannot state precisely how any individual core licenses it usage. It doesn't seem to obviously violate any terms - but actual members of staff will likely detail if it does. Again, I doubt the site would've accepted support for the emulator if it illegally used any cores - the site consistently maintains its legality of its service.
>
> Mind, I have no issue with you in particular, nor am I waving you off as pointless complaining. Claims that the emulator is "spyware", bribing RA, someone damaging over emulators, or forcing people to use it were dubious to overtly misinformed. Some concerns, mostly of core legality, are made in good faith and have fair grounds, whilst on the other side of the spectrum, claims of bribery are defamatory lies. Your concerns are fair issues, and I'll just let actual staff respond to them.

as i said, that image was posted previously in the first thread and we were told it is inaccurate. so where is the current information? it doesnt exist, you will not find it, and as the site automatically enrolls you in a free trial without even mentioning that it has done so you will not find out what parts of the front end are paid until you've used it for a week. the only thing the payment page says is "Unlimited saves, cheats, and more", with no mention of how many saves you are now limited to. even if we assume the old limit of 1 manual and 1 auto is incorrect, there is still clearly some limit on a free account, and arranging things in this way while obfuscating what exactly is free and paid is a clear tactic to drive subscriptions by taking away access to something after the user has been using it without realizing they would later be expected to pay.

also surely looking at that list you can see the concern? even if things like fast forward are now free, to put basic functions of retroarch and the other emulators theyre using behind a paywall in the first place is genuinely scam tier behavior. its great if its changed, but we cannot see what has changed, and trying to put parts of the free software they are using and did nothing to create as part of a paid tier is fairly galling.

i can give you the relevant part of genesis plus gx:

```
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Copyright (c) 2007-2023 Eke-Eke
Some portions copyright Nicola Salmoria and the MAME team
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product or activity.
```

this, or similiar, is included in nearly every single file in the emulator, as well as given in the main license:

https://github.com/ekeeke/Genesis-Plus-GX?tab=License-1-ov-file#readme

not only does it violate this section, i also cannot find anywhere on the entire website where it reproduces or links to any of the licensing agreements or copyright notices for any emulators, despite most if not all using licenses which explicitly require it, and it is presumably in violation of other licensing requirements if anyone cared to chase down all the specifics for each emulator it uses. and just looking at their privacy policy for 2 seconds there were issues with it which likely render it in violation of things like GDPR due to, most charitably, simple laziness on their part from not correctly filling out the template they used. while it would be nice to think things like this are properly checked before being accepted here, it clearly was not in this case until it was brought up in this thread. its one thing when a free and open source piece of software is rough around the edges or has issues, its another when a paid commercial product is this brazenly flawed.

Whoops
Joined Feb 25, 2023

1 hour ago

I agree with LKPopezera about getting the creator of Afterplay to provide a full and clear list of what premium includes. And similarly, I agree with GetDunked in that I'd rather clear communication from Afterplay about their service rather than any monetary donation to any specific cause.

doomhiker:

> Features are not being hidden, and this emulator is very clear as to what is and is not offered in the free versions. The screenshot on this page that apparently clarifies this is outdated according to Nepiki

This statement is contradictory though. The outdated screenshot is the only resource available on what is locked behind a premium or cloud account. You yourself linked to the docs which is where that screenshot is from. The only other page with some information, the new payment screen, has even less detail. How is this "very clear as to what is and is not offered"?

Also, that docs page isn't a section describing what's free and what isn't. It's a page detailing how to purchase a subscription. That's it. The screenshot detailing the plans isn't even explained further, it's just the text above saying "Next, select which plan is right for you". If the screenshot is indeed outdated information there's no indication of that anywhere on this page. It seems to be just an example image to demonstrate a step in the process of buying a subscription, not currently accurate information on what that subscription includes.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

1 hour ago

> I will not "calm down". This should not be supported in any way, I don't trust the common person, especially ones that are not tech-savvy to just let it disappear.

Users are trusted to make their own respective decisions about what emulators to or to not use. We provide options, but aside of rare instances of specific games requiring specific emulators (DiskStation comes to mind) we don't force people to use specific emulator frontend. The "common person" can make their own decision, and you can make yours.

The legal issues regarding cores is of legitimate concern, though. I don't doubt that admin will specifically look at this in particular. I'll agree that the website needs to better specifically what is and is not offered with the paid product; this is an issue with the emulator, however, and not our own support. "Support" here, really, just means we allow hardcore unlocks on the emulator, and link it on the site as an emulator that may be used. Nothing more.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

You change the definition of "support" all you want, but the fact still stands that its advertised on the front page and donations were made on the behalf of this site. People can make decisions, but they can also make the wrong one whether you think so or not. The emulator creator has refused to show what is being offered until this "free trial" is finished and there's no way to see these features besides some outdated picture in some google doc.

255308Ih
Joined Apr 5, 2025

1 hour ago

@CakeBananaCake

Man, I'm tired of this, okay? use the word you wanted, I don't care ...

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

@255308Ih
If you're tired then you don't have to respond to me, but if you like to talk about the topic at hand instead of talking semantics then I will be happy to respond to you.

SunnyDays
Joined Jun 22, 2022

1 hour ago

Can't believe we're at the point of the thread where we cry about people using discord but ignore the people who use 4chan to try (and fail) to rally an astroturf of support.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

1 hour ago

The advertisement on the front page is a temporary news alert of added emulator support; this has been the case for most new emulators I can recall. It'll go away and just be on the downloads page like the rest of them. They donated on the behalf of the site but I don't believe RA encouraged or chose to do that, it was purely on their behalf.

People should be allowed to make wrong decisions. I know some people would swear against retroarch. This emulator is not treated any differently to any others - it's on the downloads page, it has a news announcement so people know they can use it, and that's it. It is not even placed as top emulator, burned under more popular options like retroarch and bizhawk.

The emulator creator has not refused anything, I don't believe there has been an official response to concerns here. It doesn't have anything to do with a trial, it's admittedly shoddy website design

Anywho, I'm not changing the definition of support. On RA, support means the emulator has RA integration (which is their choice, not ours) and the website allows the emulator to be use for hardcore unlocks, tickets, etc. There are plenty of emulators out there that have RA Integration without being supported by the site.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago

Edit

@SunnyDays
I don't care if the person is from 4chan or Discord. What I do have a problem is leaving the thread to complain to their "peers" about how the other side just doesn't "get it". The conversation is right here.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

1 hour ago

The 4chan users are not supporting the emulator, they are attacking RA and claiming the site is p2w amongst other things. There is no "astroturf" of support there or anywhere, and disagreement is legitimate. RA is not making anyone think anything.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago

Edit

"Users are trusted to make their own respective decisions about what emulators to or to not use"
To speak on an earlier point of yours. Users are also trusted to help one another. Which means helping them make the best decision.

SunnyDays
Joined Jun 22, 2022

1 hour ago

@CakeBananaCake
I won't pretend to be the arbiter of how others cope with conflict but I do think it's a weak way to try and discredit a POV I dislike.

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

1 hour ago

Yes, by recommending to use x emulator over the other, with is seperate from discontinuing emulator support altogether, cake.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

What are you talking about? You are not making any sense. I'm asking RA not to advertise the emulator on their site. Has nothing to do with discontinuing RA from the guys emulator. From your words, "There are plenty of emulators out there that have RA Integration without being supported by the site." If he wants to do that, that's fine, but I don't want this site to show any support to this individual's emulator.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

1 hour ago

RA is not advertising the emulator on the site. It has a news announcement that we support, and it is linked on the downloads page - that is it. By "discontinuing RA support" I meant no longer allowing the emulator for hardcore support and removing it from the downloads page - which is what discontinuation means. The site barely even supports any given emulator - it just says you can use it for hardcore achievements, and links it on the relevant downloads page.

RoughRider
Joined Aug 24, 2024

1 hour ago

"RA is not advertising the emulator on the site. It has a news announcement that we support, and it is linked on the downloads page"

By advertising it on the front page

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

That is advertising. It's on the front page of the site. Stop arguing semantics. They are both supporting and advertising it. I do not care if there is no money involved.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

@RoughRider
Thank you!

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

1 hour ago

If I lock this thread, it's because it has passed the point of being fucking annoying and not some RAdmin conspiracy about whatever it is people were talking about.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

1 hour ago

The front page post literally just states "new emulator support". Its a temporary alert as with all other emulators that receive new support. The front page post is temporary, and it does not advertise it beyond being supported by the website. The is nothing wrong with basic support (cheevs you get there can be hardcore) or posting that we support it.

Money being involved would be relevant, as an advertisement would have a monetary aspect by definition.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

1 hour ago Edit

"basic support"
I thought they didn't support it? Also, technically money was involved. The donation wasn't made by RA itself but on their behalf.

58 minutes ago

Retroachiements is officially supported on the after play emulator. Meaning you can earn hardcore achievements on it.

doomhiker
Joined Jul 26, 2024

The money was a donation male by the emulator devs. As in nothing was given to or from RA.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

56 minutes ago Edit

And RA advertises this on their website, which I think is wrong. You are not going to change my mind about this, so I'm not sure why you keep repeating yourself.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

50 minutes ago Edit

Also, if you do private this thread or delete it. I have already saved everything as a PDF.

SunnyDays
Joined Jun 22, 2022

37 minutes ago

Make sure to run archive.org too, wouldn't want the sneaky mods sneaking away with the important whining contained herein.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

35 minutes ago Edit

They deleted the first thread they can delete this one too. It may not be important to you, but it's important to me. Even with the whining.

LKPopezera
Joined Aug 30, 2018

29 minutes ago

Saying RetroAchievements didn't advertised it is, with all the respect i can give you @doomhiker, a lack of honesty or a act of bad faith.

Not only it was announced not once but twice (Luna Project64 fork didn't even received a single one about its RetroAchievements support as far as i know, i only knew it while testing advanced options to play a Zelda OoT + MM Randomizer run outside RA), but also Nepiki pretty much said what the front-end does, gave a link to their site and used the donation as a way to promote positively that thing (and again moderators, i'm not saying the donation was bad or anything before anyone manages to interpret the text like it).

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New Emulator Support: Afterplay!

OceanManow
Joined Jul 17, 2022

42 minutes ago

> It may not be important to you, but it's important to me.

The problem is that most people don't care, unfortunately people will only see how bad this is till it's too late.

Such a sad day to use this site.

CakeBananaCake
Joined Jul 30, 2023

38 minutes ago Edit

I know, people will only realize the truth when its too late. Which is why I want it removed from the site.

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

33 minutes ago

> Also, if you do private this thread or delete it. I have already saved everything as a PDF.

Thanks! Saves me the trouble.

Closing in roughly 15-20 mins.

So while all this has been going on, we've been looking further into the matter as well as separating the trolling from legitimate concerns. A couple parties have been contacted, including the Afterplay dev, and we're awaiting their responses, which in turn will result in a discussion, and whatever else comes after that.

If I sound disingenuous, it's because I flat out don't know what to tell people right now because most of admin/moderation are busy with other things at the moment. Those who have been around for a while and know me probably know that I try to stay out of moderation issues and just do my own thing. So if I'm the one saying this stuff, then yeah, folks are busy, indisposed, on vacation, etc.

Oh, we also received our very first DMCA takedown notice today, so the few of us who are on board at the moment are dealing with that as well.

Until then, play some games, and earn some achievements. Or don't. Take a nap. Call a friend. This will get sorted out soon.

N0tj0sh33
Joined Apr 4, 2025

31 minutes ago, *last edited 12 minutes ago*

I'm just grumpy about Linux support being threatened shouldn't have said anything edited

Greatscoot
Joined May 17, 2021

31 minutes ago

Yeah I'd like to avoid seeing RA end up in a situation where emulator devs stop supporting because the website advertises a frontend that uses other peoples work for profit. This'd be fine if it was just like, cloud saves, but they're trying to charge a subscription for basic features that the emulators ALREADY have! And to top it off, the prices of the subscriptions is ridiculous! Feels like RA is making a problem for the future that we're all gonna end up paying for.

I'd really like more communication/clarity about why this decision was made, cause it's coming across as sketchy now what with the deleted thread and such. It'd be surprising if the people who agreed to this weren't aware of this issue.

Greatscoot
Joined May 17, 2021

28 minutes ago

@tele That's reassuring, I appreciate your communication! I hope we will get more context/information in the future when all is said and done.

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

20 minutes ago

> Can we also complain about duckstation. It's run by a jerk who is likely breaking github tos

If you don't know for sure, why bother saying it for any other reason than to stir up more shit? Stenz has always been cool to me so YMMV, I guess. And I was very vocal about not supporting DuckStation at first. :)

> Greatscoot's message here

Consider the possibility that these concerns, among others, have already been brought up to the emulator/frontend/I don't-even-know-what Afterplay-actually-is-yet developer and haven't heard back yet. All this shit is doing is stressing people out who are simply waiting on a response.

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

19 minutes ago

> @tele That's reassuring, I appreciate your communication! I hope we will get more context/information in the future when all is said and done.

Hopefully not from me! I got hashes and patches to hash and patch.

LordKingGundam
Joined Sep 23, 2022

17 minutes ago

The DMCA coinciding with this is interesting

MushroomMan
Joined Aug 14, 2018

12 minutes ago

> Oh, we also received our very first DMCA takedown notice today

I wonder if this isn't someone trolling after the shitshow today. What content are they targeting?

14ausher
Joined Jul 25, 2021

10 minutes ago

Before this gets locked, I just want to say that the Windows downloadable version with NES games for some reason had an insane amount of bottom overscan cutoff enabled by default, it just cuts off a bunch of the game. It's so confusing to me, especially since zero side overscan was enabled... It's such a minor thing overall but I really don't get why that was the default.

Also, I couldn't get fast forward to work and then the one thread where I could easily ask for help was locked, which was the primary reason I ended up deleting it pretty quickly; I also got confused by the "free trial" thing I discovered which didn't help. Fast forward is probably too important to me.

Anyway, good luck to the important site people in regard to figuring everything about this out, the quick scan through the thread has left me confused overall.

tele
Hash Manager
Joined Oct 20, 2015

less than a minute ago

> The DMCA coinciding with this is interesting

Unrelated. It was more like yesterday that it was issued and it was regarding some Backyard Baseball 2007 games. I didn't see it until earlier and then this mess started.

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